

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 18 has been amended, and claims 26-37 have been newly added. Claims 18-37 are now pending in the application. (Claims 1-17 were previously canceled.) Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation receipt of initialed copies of two of the three pages of prior art listings filed with an Information Disclosure Statement dated September 29, 2003. Applicants did not receive, however, an initialed copy of the third page of prior art listings, which lists seven foreign patent publications. Applicants have attached to this Amendment another copy of the third page of the prior art listing and request that it be initialed and returned.

Claims 18-20 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Patent No. 5,038,467 to Murphy ("Murphy") and US Patent No. 4,627,161 to Cushman ("Cushman"). In addition, claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Murphy in combination with Cushman and US Patent No. 4,533,199 to Feldberg ("Feldberg") and US Patent No. 6,449,838 to Murakami ("Murakami"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 18 now describes the recesses as "rigid." Murphy's recesses are not rigid but include fingers 126 that spread as contact stud 136 is inserted into a recess. (See Murphy col. 5, lines 16-48.) A recess with spreadable fingers 126 is not rigid. Nor does Cushman make up for this deficiency in Murphy. Moreover, nothing in Murphy or Cushman suggests a modification or combination that would replace Murphy's recess having spreadable fingers 126 with a rigid recess. Indeed, such a modification or combination would be contrary to the purpose and teachings of Murphy. (See, e.g., col. 2, lines 6-27.) Therefore, independent claim 18 patentably distinguishes over Murphy and Cushman.

New independent claim 26 states that tips of elongate spring contacts of an electronic device are pressed against rigid terminals disposed adjacent a surface of a substrate. As discussed above, Murphy fails to teach or suggest pressing contacts of an electronic device against *rigid* terminals of a substrate. Nor do any of the other references of record make up for this deficiency in Murphy. Therefore, independent claim 26 patentably distinguishes over Murphy whether taken singly or in combination with any other reference of record.

Claim 26 also states that the step of pressing the tips against the rigid terminals generates in the spring contacts spring forces that are perpendicular with respect to the surface of the substrate, which establishes and maintains electrical connections between the spring contacts and the rigid terminals. Force 41 in Cushman does not generate spring forces in leads 32, 33, 34 that are perpendicular with respect to the surface of substrate 31. In fact, the spring forces generated in leads 32, 33, 34 are necessarily parallel with respect to substrate 31 in order to hold a lead in an aperture 36, 37 and line other leads 32, 33, 34 up with other apertures. Again, none of the other references of record make up for this deficiency in Cushman. Therefore, independent claim 26 patentably distinguishes over Cushman whether taken singly or in combination with any other reference of record.

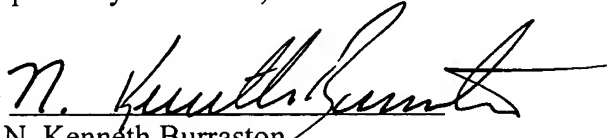
It should be noted that the differences between independent claims 18 and 26, on one hand, and the prior art of record, on the other hand, are not trivial but provide advantages not found in the prior art. For example, the methods of claims 18 and 26 may be used to connect an electronic component to just about any recess in a substrate, without requiring a complex, special recess such as is required by Murphy (e.g., a recess with spreadable finger elements 126). As another example, unlike Cushman, which requires that leads 32, 33, 34 be soldered into apertures 36, the electrical connections established between the electronic component and the recesses in the substrate of claims 18 and 26 are readily removed by simply removing the force from the electronic component. In this way, an electronic component can be electrically connected to the substrate and later easily replaced with a different electronic component. Therefore, the above-discussed differences between claims 18 and 26, on one hand, and the prior art of record, on the other hand, are not obvious differences but patentably distinguish claims 18 and 26 over the prior art of record.

Claims 19-25 and 27-37 depend from one of claims 18 or 26 and are therefore also patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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